

The Messenger.

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EDITORIAL LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 1, 1886.

I mentioned in my last letter from New York that I was going that day to Coney Island. I did go, and am frank to say that I formed no very high opinion of this famous Sunday resort for the people of New York and Brooklyn. Its beach is beautiful and some of its hotels are mammoth in proportion and magnificent appointments. But there are few things to attract one there. On this day, which was by the way, the opening of the season, there were thousands of visitors present. Rich people, poor people, men women and children were there. The place is modern Babylon in wickedness. Sunday as it was, every form of amusement was in full blast. Here was a disgusting concert of the lowest order in full blast, there a more pretentious theatrical performance engaged the people's attention. On all sides brass bands, good, bad and indifferent, were playing. Men and boys were playing billiards and pool. In one hall a dance was in progress. And "on the diamond" a game of base ball was being played. The view of the ocean from the piazza of the Brighton was grand, and this I enjoyed. But I was glad to leave Coney Island after a very short stay.

That night I went to hear Henry Ward Beecher preach. Perhaps you will think this a fitting ending for a day begun at Coney Island; the thought occurred to me. I had before hearing him, formed a very high opinion of Mr. Beecher's intellectual and oratorical abilities. I confess I was disappointed when I heard him. He is evidently growing weak, physically, and though I cannot say that this even tho' coupled with his burden of years, has affected his intellect, nevertheless his sermon on this occasion was dull and ordinary. His text was the 10th verse, VI chap. of the Epistle to the Ephesians, which according to the Revised Edition, which Mr. Beecher uses, reads thus: "Servants be obedient to them that according to the flesh, are your masters."

This gave him the opportunity to touch upon his favorite theme, "Slavery and its abolition," but he said nothing offensive even to our Southern ears. The music in this church is very fine, the organ, it is said, being the largest in the United States. There was no immense crowd in the church, indeed there were a good many empty benches. I think Mr. Beecher has lost something of his power of attracting large crowds.

Monday, May 31st, was "Decoration Day" in New York, and was observed as a holiday, the greater number of the places of business being closed. The inhabitants turned out into the streets to enjoy the day. At Madison Square where was erected the stand from which the President reviewed the procession—was a mass of closely packed humanity. It was amazing how many people were crowded into that space. And the streets and avenues radiating there from were just as full. By dint of squeezing and elbowing I got near enough to the stand to take a good square look at President Cleveland. It is but candor to state that I was not profoundly impressed with his personal appearance. He is very heavy and awkward in his movements. His face is fat and red and wears rather a surly expression. It was enough, however, to try any man's good nature to undergo the ordeal he stood that day. He was to be married the next day, and every paper and every tongue was busy with the minutest details of his movements and those of Miss Folsom.

We left New York at 1 o'clock and arrived here at 8 p. m. To-day we have seen a good deal of Washington. Gen. Grant when he returned from his tour around the world, said Washington was the most beautiful city in the world. Certainly it is the most beautiful one I ever saw. Its wide and elegant avenues and streets are laid in asphalt and make the finest possible drives. Whilst the public buildings and parks, and the elegant private places and grounds surpass those of any other city I ever saw.

At the Treasury Department, through the courtesy of Col. Trenholm, the Comptroller of the currency, we were enabled to see all the points of interest. I would weary your readers if I undertook to tell all that our party saw. Of course the vaults, where are stored millions and millions of gold and silver and currency were great attractions, and we were allowed to go all through

them. In the cash room we were allowed to lift bags of gold containing \$70,000. One of the ladies of our party was allowed to hold in her hand a package containing \$2,000,000 in National Bank Notes. We ask to see and were allowed to do so, the bonds deposited by the Abbeville National Bank. Perhaps the matter of principal interest to visitors is the handling of the mutilated currency sent to the Department for redemption. It is first assorted—bills of the same denomination being put together, in piles of one hundred, that is to say a pile may consist of one hundred one dollar bills, or two dollar bills and as the case may be. These are then sealed and the name of the clerk who counted them written and pasted across them. 4 holes are then punched through each of them. Next they are cut in two, lengthwise, and one-half goes to one force of clerks and the other half to another force to be counted again. If found to be correct these old bills are thrown into a macerator and ground into pulp and sold to the paper mills.

After going through this Department one has an exalted idea of the magnitude of this government and its resources, and of the admirable system upon which its business is conducted.

We were not allowed to do more at the White House than see the East Room. Everything is busy in preparation for the President's wedding to-morrow night.

Naturally the place of principal interest to me was the Capitol. I shall not stop to describe the building. That is known, either by sight or description to every American. I spent most of my time in the galleries of the Senate and House. I had never seen either of these bodies in session. But I had heard much of the proceedings of both. The Senate is a grave and dignified body. Whilst I was there Senator George of Mississippi was speaking against the Bankruptcy bill and Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts was interrupting him with questions. Hoar is a white headed, white bearded old fellow who whines through his nose. Mitchell of Oregon was in the chair. He is a young looking man with long brown beard. Edmunds is a hard looking old customer. His ragged and far from handsome physiognomy is a marked feature of the Senate. It is related of him, that soon after our Senator Butler took his seat a Northern man in the gallery said to his neighbor "Show me Butler, that cut-throat and murderer from South Carolina." The gentleman spoken, to being somewhat of a wag pointed to Edmunds whereupon the visitor said, "I might have known it. Any man with that countenance would be guilty of killing niggers." It is said that Mr. Edmunds didn't appreciate the joke. Senator Butler and Hampton were at their post of duty. The former is the finest looking man in the Senate. And as full of geniality as ever. Senator Hampton does not look well. Recent domestic afflictions weigh heavily upon him. I had thought to give you a pen picture of some other of the Senators, but find if I do I shall exceed the limits of a letter.

Your readers have often heard that the House of Representatives is a noisy body. But they can have no adequate idea of the disorder unless they have seen it. It takes a man of national reputation to command its attention, and such a one does not always succeed. To-day the House has been engaged in the discussion of that section of the Oleomargarine bill which proposes to place a tax of ten cents a pound on the manufacture of Oleomargarine. There seems little doubt that the bill will pass when a vote can be reached, because many Democrats influenced by local consideration will vote with the Republicans in favor of it. Nevertheless the opponents are filibustering against it and the day was consumed with these tactics. It seems a small matter at first. But the principle is an important one. The Tariff laws are bad in many respects. But to tax one home industry for the benefit of another is the most odious form of tariff. This feature of the bill is understood to be in the interest of the Dairy farmers. Very many poor people especially in the cities use Oleomargarine in place of butter and lard because it is cheaper. I don't see why it should be taxed out of their reach and they compelled to buy more expensive butter. If Congress provides that the healthfulness of the article be maintained and that it be sold openly by its proper name it will have done all that is necessary. Our delegation is solid against the bill.

The House contains many strong men of wide reputation, who I would like to mention. The speaker, Mr. Carlisle, is a striking looking man, and an able presiding officer. He is having some trouble over the appointment of the Post-Master at Covington, Kentucky in the discussion of which some racy developments are promised.

John W. Daniel of Virginia, is an un-

usually handsome man. He has a face of classic beauty. Next March he takes his seat in the Senate. "Little Joe Wheeler" of Alabama was an object of interest to me, as I had a vivid recollection of "Wheeler's Cavalry" during the war. "Little Joe" is not by any means pretty. Mr. Reagan of Texas, who was Post-Master General of the Confederacy, is a distinguished member and a very young looking man for his years. Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania, is one of the oldest looking men in the House. Mr. Blount of Georgia is considered to be one of most useful and industrious members. Mr. Springer of Illinois occupied the chair and presided well. Mr. Holman the "great objector" looks as if he were cut out for the business.

But the man who impressed me more than any person I saw was Samuel J. Randall of Pennsylvania. He is a tall man with stooping shoulders, but imposing presence. His face is clean shaven and is handsome. The massive mould of his jaws gives an air of strength and firmness to his face. His splendid head and brow betoken the intellect that makes him a marked figure in national affairs.

Our own delegation were present, watchful and careful of our interest. They all stand well in Congress. We met Mr. Hemphill and Col. Perry and are indebted to them for many acts of kindness and attention. We are likewise indebted to our friend Jas. R. Randall, whose letters to the *Augusta Chronicle* have helped to make that paper so deeply interesting, not only to Georgians but to Carolinians. Mr. Randall is a keen and close observer, energetic and popular, and most graceful and polished in his style and diction. He kindly played *cicerone* for us, and showed us the attractions, not alone of the Capitol building, but of the city.

I seized the opportunity to see a panorama of the second battle of Manassas similar to that of Gettysburg, which I described in Boston. I had heard Gen. McGowan and Judge Cothran discuss and describe this noted battle so fully and clearly and had read so much of it, that I was particularly anxious to see this representation of it. It was wonderfully vivid and realistic. I could almost locate the ravine in which General McGowan and Colonel Cothran lay wounded, while that terrible fight was going on at the railroad embankment, and Stephen D. Lee's artillery played such havoc with the charging hosts of blue coats. To one who was engaged in the battle this scene of it would be soul stirring. At this distance of time from the occurrence there was a sorrowful thought connected with the event.

I felt, to-day when I called for corn bread and got an old fashioned "dodger," that I was getting homeward. At the North corn bread, such as we have, is unknown, and I looked upon the "corn pone" they brought me here at the Metropolitan as upon the face of a friend. And as we friends (?) sometimes do one another, I fell upon it and enjoyed it.

To-night I leave Washington for Columbia to pick up my "small fry" whom we have left there, and thence home. So that I shall not write you any more letters. If I have entertained, amused, or instructed your readers I am happy. M. L. B. Jr.

South Carolina Democrats Alarmed.

COLUMBIA, June 9.—The State Democratic Executive Committee held a secret session here yesterday which lasted until midnight. The meeting was called to organize the Democracy to thwart the farmers in their movement for a "new deal," which is tending to disrupt the party. Another object of the meeting was to declare against the primary system, which is being adopted in the Third Congressional District against party rules. The recent Farmers' Convention held in this city has greatly alarmed many Democrats in the State. The officeholders are uneasy on account of the demonstration made by the farmers against the present State administration, and they will use every effort to overcome Farmer Tillman in the approaching campaign. The State Convention has been called to meet in Columbia on August 4.

We copy the above from the *Register* which copied it from the New York *Sun*.

We do not believe the stuff contained in that despatch. Why should the State Democratic Executive Committee want to thwart the farmers in their efforts for a "new deal." It is no part of the business of the Executive Committee, and we don't believe they would attempt any such interference, nor do we believe that it was the object of the Committee to declare against the primary plan. If the session was secret how did this correspondent find out all this? In our opinion that correspondent is a political Ransey Sniffe, seeking to stir up strife. For ourselves we are in favor of the primary plan of making nominations, and have no idea that the Executive Committee would be foolish enough to oppose the plan if it was the wish of the people to adopt it.

Our Public School System.

Editors Messenger:

I am glad to see the efforts being made by our School Commissioner to elevate the standard of teachers in our public schools. It certainly needs the efforts not only of the School Commissioner, but of every intelligent citizen in the neighborhood of a public school. But I see the difficulties in his way—shortness of funds and complaining citizens who seem not to appreciate the value of skilled and competent teachers, and who want quantity instead of quality. Hence we find some urging a policy that will drive out competent teachers, and fill the schools with teachers totally unfit to teach—that is reduce the pay of teachers one-half that the schools may be run double the number of months. They forget or perhaps do not know that a thoroughly competent teacher will teach a pupil more in three months than a poor teacher will teach him in twelve months. We would suggest to them to consider the old copy that used to be for boys in our school days, "It is hard to unlearn what you have learned amiss." If the test of a good School Commissioner is to be the length of time he runs the schools we would suggest that the pay of teachers be reduced to \$10 per month; for even at that price all the schools can be filled with teachers so called.

As a State, South Carolina in her poverty, like other Southern States, has attempted too much. She has taken upon herself the whole burden of the education of the children of the State. And the result of her policy is that the citizens are fast coming to think that the education of their children is not their business, that the State has undertaken that responsibility and they don't feel that responsibility that they ought to feel. It would be far better to have no public school fund than to foster such a feeling of dependence upon the part of our people, destroying their manhood, and making the children feel that they are beneficiaries of the public bounty.

It is a grave question what effect our present common school system is having upon the standard of education in the State. It has virtually destroyed the high grade academies of ante-bellum days, and thus lowered the standard of education. In time it is obliged to tell upon our men in public position who are to shape the policy of our government in law, morals and literature. Can we not already observe its effect? Look over the list of public men in all the departments of government and how many Calhouns, McDuffies, Prestons, Legares, Haynes, Pettigrews, Harpers, and Wardlaws do you find since the war. It is the same country, same climate, same political institutions, and yet the standard of statesmanship is lowered. How much is to be attributed to the working of our system of public schools?

It has taught our people to depend almost entirely upon the public school fund for the education of their children. Here a question suggests itself, what right has a State to tax one citizen to educate the children of another who is fully able to educate them himself? A tax to aid the poor to do this might come under the "general welfare" principle but this can not. I suppose about the same right as the British Government has to tax its subjects to keep up a big church establishment with enormous "livings" for its clergy. We live in a pure republican government and every citizen, able to do so, should educate his own children, and only those who are not able to do so, should be assisted. But some will say the negroes will get the larger share of the poor school fund. Will they get more now than they ought to have considering the fact that the white people pay ninety-five cents of every dollar raised by taxation for the school fund. If you wish to avoid this I see no way except to wipe out the whole system and depend upon individual and community efforts to educate the children. I suppose the negroes would then take care of their own needs and so would the whites in every community.

When a man pays out of his own pocket for the education of his children he will keep them at school and take more interest in having a good teacher. Now many parents finding that it "doesn't cost anything" keep their children at home one or two days in every week, and then complain that they do not progress in studies. But I am wandering from what I intended. Let the School Commissioner stick to his policy for our country's good and have fewer schools and better teachers.

AN OLD TEACHER.

School Exhibition at Pineville Academy Presided over by Mrs. Nannie Hawthorn.

June 11, 1886.

F. W. R. Nance master of ceremonies. Welcome Friends; Chorus. Salutatory; Misses Beatrice Agnew, Mattie Winn, Lizzie Brownlee and Minnie Crawford.

The Infant Orator; Master Clarence Hagan.

Writing Papa a Letter; Miss Mattie Winn.

Hard to Please; Master Johnnie Agnew and Miss Euphie Winn.

Put Your Shoulder to the Wheel; Chorus.

Kittie in the Barn; Master Calvin Coleman.

Curfew Shall not Ring To-night; Miss Janie Hagan.

Give the Little Boy a Chance; Masters Mellie Agnew, Johnnie Winn, Allan Hagan and Annie Jordan.

Fashion, Dialogue; Misses Mattie Crawford and Janie Hagan.

The Hand that Rocks the World; Miss Minnie Crawford.

"Cheerfulness," composition; Miss Euphie Winn.

Good for Something; Master Henry Nickles.

Hymn of the Mountain; By a number.

"Little Birdie," Chorus.

Little Brown Hands; Miss Alice Crawford.

God Bless our School; Miss Euphie Winn.

Wishing to be a Lamb, Dialogue; Misses Alice Crawford, Julia Cowan and Mattie Winn, Master Johnnie Agnew.

The River of Life, composition; Miss Janie Hagan.

Human Life; Master Olin Brownlee.

Auntie Puzzled, Dialogue; Misses Mattie Crawford and Mattie Winn.

The Captain's Daughter; Miss Lizzie Brownlee.

The Only True Nobility; Master Johnnie Agnew.

Kindness, composition; Miss Alice Crawford.

Sleighting; Chorus.

The Kisses; Beatrice Agnew.

Be true to Yourself Young Man; Master Johnnie Winn.

A very Little Boys Speech; Lowry Brownlee.

The Gossips, dialogue; Miss Janie Hagan, Alice Crawford, Euphie Winn and Mattie Crawford.

Little Boys Lecture; Mellie Agnew.

"Honesty is the Best Policy," composition; Miss Mattie Crawford.

Bringing in the Golden Sheaves Chorus.

Hold Fast What I Give You; Miss Lizzie Nickles.

Lord Ullins' daughter; Miss Mattie Crawford.

The Doctor and his Patient; Misses Janie Hagan, Alice Crawford, Euphie Winn, and Master Olin Brownlee.

Miss Edith Entertains her Sister's Beau; Miss Julia Cowan.

Army of the Children; Chorus.

Here came in a good dinner in the Grove varied, rich abundant and splendid.

EVENING.

Calisthenics.

Valedictory; Miss Julia Cowan.

Prizes delivered by Ellis G. Graydon.

Farewell Song; Chorus.

Speeches from Prof. Wm. Hood, School Commissioner, Geo. C. Hodges, Orville Calhoun, Esq. Closing remarks to the children by F. W. R. Nance.

State Democratic Executive Committee.

COLUMBIA, S. C., June 9.—The State Democratic Executive Committee met at Agricultural Hall last night and was in session until after midnight. Gen. Jas. Izlar presided, and there was a full attendance of members. Arrangements for reorganizing the party were discussed, and other questions affecting the interest of the party considered. A resolution was unanimously adopted to provide for calling a State Convention on August 4th. The call has not yet been issued but will be read in a few days.

The campaign will be short sharp and decisive. There is no indication in any of the counties of a division in the ranks of the party and there will probably be no reason for a long and tedious fight against nothing. It is said that some of the weak-kneed members of the party apprehend a disturbance of its harmony by the farmers' movement but sensible people know that the leaders in this movement are among the straightest of the straightest Democracy. It is stuff to say that any opposition to Democratic nominations will develop among the farmers of the State. They are now as they have always been the backbone of the party in South Carolina.

RICHLAND.

The State Normal Institute.

Colonel Coward, State Superintendent of Education has completed the arrangements for the Faculty who will conduct the Teachers' Institute this year.

The Institute for white teachers will open at Greenville on the 3d of August, and continue in session four weeks.

It will be under the general management of Superintendent Coward as principal with the following eminent instructors in the several departments; Prof. A. J. Rickoff of New York, the well known author of a series of reader will lecture on pedagogues; school management and methods; Mrs. A. J. Rickoff English grammar and composition; Prof. S. R. Klemm of Ohio, history and geography; Captain J. C. Lynes of the King's Mountain Institute on instruction in natural sciences in the schools; Miss Callie Haynes of the Philadelphia Medical College physiology and hygiene The department of music and calisthenics will be provided for hereafter.

Death of Mrs. W. C. Wardlaw.

After a long illness Mrs. W. C. Wardlaw, who has been quite ill for some time closed her eyes and passed from earth yesterday morning before day. Notwithstanding the expected death and long illness of Mrs. Wardlaw, the news spread a gloom all amongst her circle of friends were she was known and loved. Mrs. Wardlaw was a devoted Christian lady and her loss will be mourned by her friends and sorrowing family. The sympathy of the entire community goes out to Dr. Wardlaw and his children in their sad bereavement. Her remains will be buried from the Presbyterian church this morning at 10:30.—*Augusta Chronicle*.

Open to the World—\$100 Reward.

Thomas McGettigan, Proprietor of the Palmetto Saloon offers a reward of one hundred dollars to any man that can prove that he is selling impure goods. He advertises pure liquors and does not dupe his customers by false advertisements. Call and sample his stock on court week. Everything fresh and cool. Try a Democratic milk punch.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures, Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by T. C. Perrin.

Lowndesville Locals.

We are glad to see Miss Willie LeRoy again on our streets after a several weeks absence in Tennessee.

Miss Mattie Harper, of Harper's Ferry, is in Elbert County, on a visit of several months. Miss Louise Mosely is at Greenville visiting relatives.

Misses Lola Speer and Ottilie Latimer are in the Columbia Female College.

"R. S. G.", in his last dots, says our mails are very irregular. Ours have been too since the "young flood," having only a horse mail it is water bound fully half of the time. If we fail to get our mail not more than five times a week, we think that we are doing pretty well and bear deprivation as philosophically as possible, hoping for better days very soon.

The measles have been raging below first among the rail road hands and from them they have spread in all directions, but few cases proved fatal.

The spring oats upon many farms in this township, unless some disaster befall them, will average, according to judges, from forty to fifty bushels per acre.

Mr. J. H. O'Neil, representing the nursery of Ragsdale Brothers, of Greensboro, N. C., has been canvassing this section for several days and has met with flattering success in taking orders. A reliable man working for a reliable firm.

Our town treasury was replenished a few days since by the addition of two dollars, levied by our municipal authorities, upon a countryman, who had partaken rather too freely of "the ardent" and was correspondingly hilarious upon our streets. Oh for a "prohibition that does prohibit!"

For several Sundays in succession, there has been no instrumental music in the Methodist Church. The organ was so much out of order that it would not respond to the skillful touch of Mrs. B. C. Kay.

Many reports reach us that lands that were terraced washed very badly during our late heavy rains. If all of our lands were as thoroughly and as scientifically ditched as Mr. J. T. Latimer has his, such complaints would be "few and far between."

Mr. R. L. Moorehead, has lately bought a registered jersey, said to be a very fine and handsome animal.

Mr. William Baker sowed five or six bushels of cotton seed on an acre of land as an experiment. He proposes to harrow it a time or two and "let it rip."

A few nights ago, Judge J. J. Mosely's gin house, which had been much injured by high water, fell into the creek. He had left it but a few minutes when it went down. "One after another the old land marks are passing away."

It is rumored that Mr. J. C. Kay will ere long begin to improve a lot near to Dr. O. P. Horton. He will go to merchandising as soon as he can have a store house built near the depot.

Thirty-five or forty years ago, Judge Mitchell, then a citizen of Lowndesville, planted an acorn in his yard which soon sprang up and has grown to be a tree some forty feet high, and near or quite two feet in diameter near the ground. Both the tree and yard are now owned by our enterprising townsman Mr. T. Baker.

Whilst farmers clubs are being formed and conventions held, our township does not seem to be taking stock in them worth a cent. Every man who tills the soil should be a strong advocate for them where and when they are organized, solely for the benefit and advancement of the agricultural interests of the country. All other interests are fostered and kept alive by, and are dependent upon, that of the farmer. Strange to say, there is less union, less concert of action among this than any other class. Let us form a club; or clubs, if necessary, in every township; and hold meetings at least once a month and let there be a full and free interchange of ideas upon this very important subject and we would all be benefited and encouraged.

Those who are willing to be sacrificed "for the good of the people" are gradually coming to the front. It is to be hoped however, that they will not become so numerous as to call forth an expression similar to one used by one of Abbeville's honored sons, several years since, in a County Democratic convention. Nominations being in order for delegates to the State convention, and when it seemed as if nearly all present had been nominated, this gentleman called for the names of those present who had not been announced, and that he would take pleasure in nominating them. From present indications there will be no "offices to let after the seventh of November for want of men to fill them."

We have had a "big" rain nearly every day or night since my last. But little ploughing done during that time. 'Tis said "that the old scratch finds plenty of work for idle hands," so can the plantation now but of a very different nature.

Some things of a very amusing nature occur sometimes. It is related of a man in this town that once during a strong wind he thought it about time for him to pray some and he did so in this style: "Be easy Lord, me and my wife are scared of wind." Another who got into rather a dangerous and alarming situation from the impulse of the moment uttered the following: "Oh Lord I have not troubled you much lately about my affairs, and if you will just help me out of this scrape, I promise not to bother you again soon."

TROUPE.

Saved His Life.

Mr. D. L. Wilcox of Horse Cave, Ky says he was, for many years, badly afflicted with Phthisis, also Diabetes; the pains were almost unendurable and would sometimes almost throw him into convulsions. He tried Electric Bitters and got relief from first bottle and after taking six bottles, was entirely cured and had gained in flesh eighteen pounds. Says he positively believes he would have died, had it not been for the relief afforded by Electric Bitters. Sold at fifty cents a bottle by T. C. Perrin.